



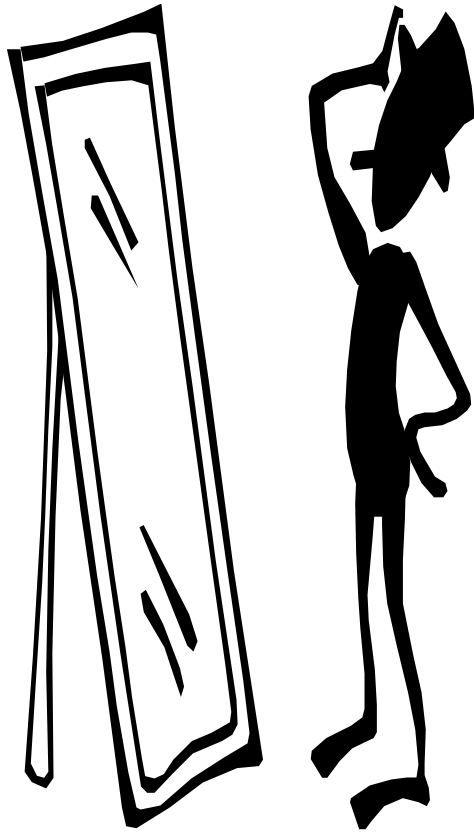
Quality First! Arizona's Quality Improvement and Rating System

Ginger Sandweg
Leslie Totten



FIRST THINGS FIRST

What is Quality First ?



Quality First (QF) is Arizona's quality improvement and rating system.

- Identify quality standards
- Assess early care and education programs
- Support programs in increasing quality standards



Why Quality Rating Systems?

- Improve school readiness
- Decrease need for expensive interventions
- Inform policy makers and communities
- Help families



Current Enrollment in Quality First

Over **800** early care and education providers

- Varied early care and education settings
- Spanning the entire state of Arizona



Components of Quality First



Quality First Coaching

- Partner with programs throughout quality improvement process
- Monthly on-site visits
- Individualized guidance and support
- Classroom observations, targeted training and technical assistance
- Goal setting, classroom management tips and techniques
- Links to community resources



Quality First Consultation Team

May include:

- Child Care Health Consultation
- Mental Health Consultation
- Inclusion of Children with Special Needs
- Pre-Kindergarten Mentors



Financial Incentives

- Support programs in improving and maintaining program quality
- Based on licensed capacity for children birth – age five (*not in kindergarten*)
- 2 Types: Enhancement Grants/Quality Bonus
- Directly linked to QIP/QRP
- Licensing Fee Assistance
- Available annually



Quality First Program Assessment

- Three Assessments used in Quality First

Valid and Reliable

- Assessor Qualifications and Training

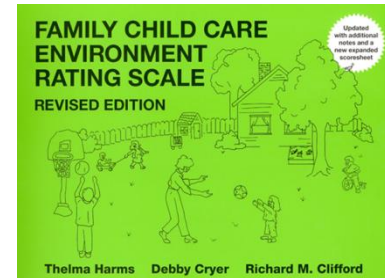
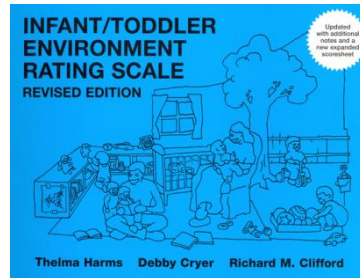
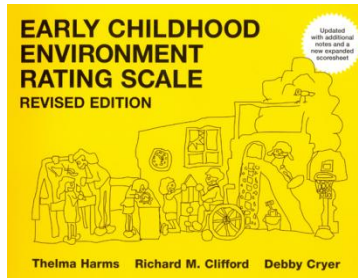
Experience

Training

Ongoing Reliability



Program Assessment: Environment Rating Scale

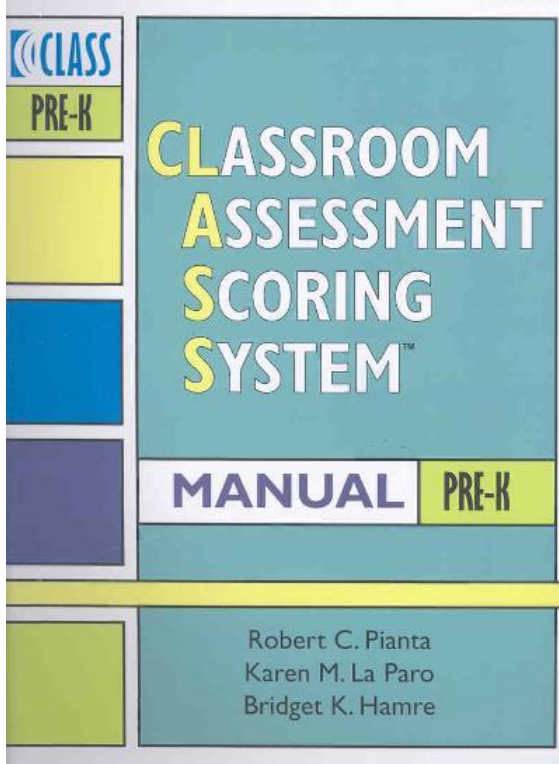


Measures the Quality of the Environment to determine if

1. There are chances for children to build a strong sense of self and positive relationships with other children and adults
2. There are appropriate learning opportunities that meet a wide range of developmental needs
3. Children's health and safety needs are protected



Program Assessment: CLASS



Measures teacher-child interactions in 3 Domains

1. Emotional Support
2. Classroom Organization
3. Instructional Support



Program Assessment: Quality First Points Scale

Measures additional quality standards not assessed in either the ERS or the CLASS

1. Teacher Qualifications
2. Administrative Practices
3. Curriculum and Child Assessment



Quality First Star Rating

 Highest Quality				
 Quality Plus				
 Quality				
 Progressing Star				
 Rising Star				
Demonstrates a level of quality that provides an environment of lower ratios/group size and higher staff qualifications that supports significant positive outcomes for young children in preparation for school. Curriculum is aligned with state standards and child assessment. Relationships between adults and children are nurturing and promote emotional, social, and academic development.				
Demonstrates a level of quality that provides an environment of developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive learning experiences. Curriculum is aligned with state standards. Relationships between adults and children are nurturing and promote language development and reasoning skills.				
Demonstrates a level of quality that is healthy and safe with access to developmentally appropriate materials. Curriculum is aligned with state standards. Interactions between adults and children are enhanced. Staff qualifications exceed state regulatory requirements.				
Demonstrates a commitment to provide environments that are progressing in the ability to foster the health, safety and development of young children.				
Demonstrates a commitment to examine practices and improve the quality of care beyond regulatory requirements.				
ERS Average Program Score 5.0 & above No classroom score below 3.0				
ERS Average Program Score 4.0 – 4.99 No classroom score below 3.0				
ERS Average Program Score 3.0 – 3.99 No classroom score below 2.5				
ERS Average Program Score 2.0 – 2.99				
ERS Average Program Score 1.0 – 1.99				
CLASS Average Program Score <div> <div>ES</div> <div>CO</div> <div>IS</div> </div> <div> <div>6.0</div> <div>6.0</div> <div>3.0</div> </div>				
CLASS Average Program Score <div> <div>ES</div> <div>CO</div> <div>IS</div> </div> <div> <div>5.0</div> <div>5.0</div> <div>2.5</div> </div>				
CLASS Average Program Score <div> <div>ES</div> <div>CO</div> <div>IS</div> </div> <div> <div>4.5</div> <div>4.5</div> <div>2.0</div> </div>				
CLASS N/A				
CLASS N/A				
Points Scale 12 point minimum <div> <div>SQ</div> <div>AP</div> <div>CA</div> </div> <div> <div>4</div> <div>4</div> <div>4</div> </div>				
Points Scale 10 point minimum <div> <div>SQ</div> <div>AP</div> <div>CA</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>2</div> <div>2</div> </div>				
Points Scale 6 point minimum <div> <div>SQ</div> <div>AP</div> <div>CA</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>2</div> <div>2</div> </div>				
Points Scale N/A				
Points Scale N/A				



Quality First Assessment and Accreditation

- Start assessment process with the CLASS
 - Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - The National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission (NECPA)
 - Association for Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education (NAC)
 - National Family Child Care Accreditation (NAFCC)



FY 13 Quality First Program Enhancements

- Publication of Star Rating
- Varying Coaching Intensity linked to Star Rating
- Child Care Scholarships
- Specialized Technical Assistance
- Individualized Child Care Health Consultation



Contact Information



qualityfirst@azftf.gov

602.771.5000

